IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An illuminated device comprising illumination means having at least one illumination plate, the, or each, plate comprising at least one face and at least one edge, and at least one light source adapted to deliver light into the, or each, illumination plate via the, or each, edge, and diffusion means comprising a cover having inner and outer surfaces; characterized in that the plate is a forward-diffusing acrylic material from the surface of which light emerges predominantly at an angle of less than 30° from the plane of [~~the surface~~] said at least one face at the point of emergence; and in that the inner surface of the cover is disposed to overlie [~~the, or each, face~~] said at least one face to form an enclosure, in which [~~the, or each, face~~] said at least one face is disposed.

2. (Currently Amended) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the light emerges from [~~the surface~~] said at least one face of the plate at an angle of less than 5° from the plane of [~~the surface~~] said at least one face at the point of emergence.

3. (Currently Amended) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the illumination plate comprises a second face disposed in an opposing direction to [~~the said face~~] said at least one face and separated there-from by the , or each, edge and wherein at least one edge of the, or each, illumination plate is substantially perpendicular to [~~at least one of its faces~~] said at least one face.

4. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the diffusion cover completely encloses the illumination plate or plates and wherein the boundary

of the diffusion cover is equal to, or larger, than the boundary of the illumination plate, or plates, which it encloses.

5. (Currently Amended) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the the inner surface area of the diffusion cover is greater than the surface area of [~~the face~~] said at least one face of the illumination plate which it encloses.

6. (Currently Amended) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the minimum distance between [~~at least one of the faces~~] said at least one face and the inner surface of the cover is at least 10mm.

7. (Currently Amended) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the minimum distance between [~~at least one of the faces~~] said at least one face and the inner surfaces of the cover is not less than 30mm.

8. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the light source comprises at least one light emitting diode.

9. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the, or each, illumination plate is substantially flat.

10. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least part of the, or each, illumination plate is arcuate in shape.

11. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the second face of the plate is adapted to prevent light emerging therefrom by reflective means to reflect the light back into the illumination plate.

12. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cover is a three dimensional shape.

13. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of a message, color or graphic, is displayed on the cover.

14. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said at least one of a message, color or graphic, is displayed on a light transmissive carrier which overlies the cover.

15. (Original) An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least part of the inner surface of the cover is reflective.